

WESTERN UNION
DECODED COPY

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gandy

WH 23 98/80 COTT AL COLLECT

LOS ANGELES CALIF OCT 5 1938 201P

DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

US DEPT OF JUSTICE

HOMER ALAN GILLETTE, CECIL B DENILE, VICTIM EXTORTION LETTER POST-ARREST LEROY, KANSAS, SEPTEMBER NINETEEN TH STATED HOMER ALAN GILLETTE, RECEIVED BY VICTIM READS AS FOLLOWS QUOTE I AM WRITING TO YOU FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR MY SERVICES IN "CHAINED" ON LUX RADIO THEATRE ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE THIRTEEN. PLEASE SEND IT AND STEP ON IT EITHER AIR MAIL OR WIRE. OR ELSE. UNQUOTE. ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY NO VIOLATION, I AM FORWARDING LETTER AMASD TO KANSASCITY DIVISION REQUESTING APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION

HANSON

RECORDED

INDEXED

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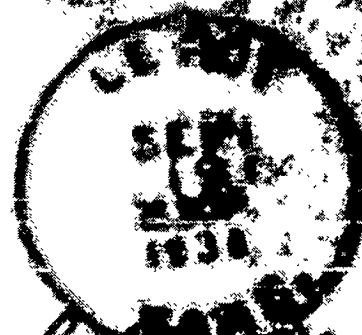
7-4061-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 10 1938

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE



Cecil B. DeMille,
46 Paramount Studios
Hollywood, California.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

24020

Laboratory Report

Case: **EDGAR ALLEN GILLETTE;** Number: **9-4061-2**
CHCIL B. DE MILLE - Victim;
(Letter Postmarked LeRoy,
Kansas, Sept. 19, 1935);
Specimens: **EXTORTION.**

9-4061-2 Q 1 Envelope postmarked "Le Roy, Kans., Sept. 19, 1935, 4:30 P. - "
Q 2 Accompanying letter beginning " I am writing to you for...."

Examination requested by: **Los Angeles**

Date received: **10/10/35 atg 4:30 P. M.**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Result of examination: Examination by: **Pickering**

CC-Kansas City.

EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN MAILING TUBE.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
October 5th, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: HOMER ALAN GILLETTE;
CECIL B. DE MILLE - Victim
(Letter Postmarked LeRoy,
Kansas, Sept. 19, 1938);
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the telegram of the Los Angeles office to the Bureau on October 5, 1938 advising concerning the receipt of a letter by the victim from the subject, in which \$1,000 was demanded.

The original of this letter is being forwarded to the Bureau under separate cover, along with the envelope in which the letter was mailed, which you will note is postmarked "LeRoy, Kansas, September 19, 1938". Photostatic copies of the extortion letter and envelope are attached hereto for the Bureau and the Kansas City Division. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. De Mille,

"I am writing to you for \$1,000. for my services in "Chained" on Lux Radio Theater on the night of June 13.

"Please send it via West - either air mail or wire. Or else.

(Signed) Homer Alan Gillette"

As was indicated to the Bureau in the telegram of the Los Angeles office, there is perhaps no violation involved in this letter in view of the fact that the element of a threat would have to be construed from the last two words of the letter, "Or else".

RECORDED

INDEXED

4061-7

Director

-2-

October 5, 1938

However, in order that the Los Angeles office can maintain its relationship with the motion picture profession in the handling of these letters, it is requested that the Kansas City Division conduct an appropriate investigation at LeRoy, Kansas, to determine the identity of the writer of this letter and his reason for so communicating with Mr. DE MILLE. If the identity of the writer is established, it is believed that the facts should also be presented to the United States Attorney for his opinion as to prosecution, the Bureau, of course, being notified before such action is taken.

It is also requested that the Los Angeles office be promptly notified of any developments, especially if an arrest is made, in order that Mr. DE MILLE can be advised.

For the further information of the Bureau and the Kansas City Division, it might be stated that this letter was brought to the attention of the Los Angeles office by FLORENCE COLE, one of Mr. DE MILLE'S employees, who stated that she personally opened the envelope in which the letter was received. She also stated that one of the girls in the office, VIVIAN PATTERSON, had handled the letter while making a typewritten copy of it. When the letter was received in the Los Angeles office, it was opened by MOMNEY STEWART, a stenographer, who might have handled the envelope inasmuch as the envelope was attached to the letter of transmittal and was not encased in a cellophane envelope at the time. Likewise it is possible that I touched the envelope when the letter came to my attention with other mail.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Hanson

J. H. HANSON, UOZ
Special Agent in Charge.

JSH:MO

cc: Kansas City (Encl)

Encl: 10/5/38

SFP:EG

October 19, 1936

9-4031-3

Special Agent in Charge.

Los Angeles, California

Re: Homer Allen Gillette; Cecil B. De Mille -
Victim; (Letter postmarked Le Roy, Kansas,
September 19, 1936); Extortion.

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report # 24959 . In connection with the
above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the
following specimens which your office submitted for examination:

Q1 and Q2

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JVB:EG

24352

Laboratory Report

Case:

October 14, 1938

Number:

9-4061-2

Homer Allen Gilllette; Cecil B. De Mille - Victim;
(Letter postmarked Le Roy, Kansas, September 19,
1938); Extortion.

Specimens:

- Q1. Envelope postmarked "Le Roy, Kansas, September 19, 1938, 4:30 P. -".
Q2. Accompanying letter beginning "I am writing to you for--".

Examination requested by:

Los Angeles

Date received:

10/10/38

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Pickering

The specimen listed as Q1 is a plain white linen finish envelope which measures 3.45x5.37" and contains no watermark. The name and address are written in script with pen and ink using blue or blue-black ink.

Specimen Q2 is a plain white, unruled, smooth finish sheet of paper which measures 4.37x7.44" and contains no watermark. The message is handwritten with pen and ink using blue or blue-black ink.

The handwriting on the questioned specimens was searched against the Laboratory's anonymous letter file and no identification could be effected. Photographic copies of the questioned specimens will be added to this file and in the event of a future identification your office will be notified.

The specimens listed as Q1 and Q2 were treated for latent fingerprints but none of value could be developed.

Photographic copies of the questioned specimens will be forwarded to your office within the next several days.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR OFFICE DESIRE THIS ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAY DEVELOP THE BUREAU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT

1-7 TRANSMITTAL.

1 - Bureau

2 - Los Angeles

1 - Kansas City

1 - Laboratory

9-4061-3

JVB:ED

October 14, 1936

9-4061 -2

Special Agent in Charge
Los Angeles, California

Re: Homer Allen Gillette;
Cecil H. De Mills - Victim;
(Letter postmarked Le Roy, Kansas,
September 19, 1936); Extortion.

70
✓
Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau

October 10, 1936.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

9-4061-3

cc - Kansas City

L-16

This boy's mother, Mrs. MABEL GILLETTE, explained that HOMER has been confined to bed for nearly four years, suffering from mental and heart complications and that his only recreation is his bedroom radio, over which he listens to the Lux Radio program each week and said it was from this source that he evidently conceived the idea which later became fixed in his mind that he actually played on this program. She said he has written letters on different occasions to several of the Hollywood movie stars and celebrities and that she always destroys these letters after telling him she would mail them for him, so as not to make him feel bad. She said that instant letter was evidently sneaked out of the house by one of the neighbors' children at her son's request.

Mrs. GILLETTE advised that Dr. A. B. McCONNELL of Burlington, Kansas, has been treating her boy's condition for several years and that, if necessary, he would confirm the statements made by her, if contacted.

GILLETTE is a boy 20 years of age, anemic, disfigured and is so obviously abnormal mentally it was not deemed advisable to contact Dr. McCONNELL at Burlington, Kansas, for the purpose of verifying Mrs. GILLETTE's statements regarding her son's condition.

Mrs. GILLETTE was very upset regarding instant letter and promised she would see to it that her boy wrote no more letters of this type.

The following description of GILLETTE was obtained from personal observation and from information furnished by his mother:

Name - HOMER ALAN GILLETTE
Age - 20 years (born 12-10-17, LeRoy, Kansas)
Height - 5 feet 10 inches
Weight - 100 pounds
Build - very thin
Complexion - very sallow
Hair - brown
Eyes - blue
Head - abnormally large at top with peaked chin
Arms and legs - abnormally thin.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **9-177**

REPORT MADE AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	DATE WHEN MADE 10-21-38	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-10-38	REPORT MADE BY E. M. KRINGER
TITLE HOMER ALAN GILLETTE CECIL BODAMILLER - Victim			CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

GILLETTE, age 20, has been bedridden for past four years and is mentally unbalanced.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:

Letter from the Los Angeles office, 10-5-38.

DETAILS:

- At LeRoy, Kansas -

W. H. HARRIS, Postmaster, advised that HOMER ALAN GILLETTE is an invalid and has been for several years confined to bed. He said that GILLETTE for several years prior to his present illness seemed to suffer from some mental condition and was treated by the school children as the "town clown." He said from what he has heard regarding this boy's activities he is not responsible for any of his actions.

The writer, accompanied by GROVER WARRELL, the local marshal, interviewed HOMER ALAN GILLETTE at his home. This individual's conversation was rambling and incoherent. He insisted he played in the Lux Radio Theatre program at which time he became acquainted with JOAN CRAWFORD, with whom he now appears to be very much infatuated. Later during the conversation had with him he insisted on introducing the writer, and the local official to Miss CRAWFORD, who, he claimed, was in the next room.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">9 40611 4</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">OCT 25 1938</div>
3-Bureau 2-Los Angeles 2-Kansas City <i>cc Mr. Rogers</i> <i>4-5-4-38</i>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> CONFIDENTIAL </div>

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

April 4, 1940

LRP:LCJ

4:15 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Mr. John Reddan of the Criminal Division called and inquired whether we have a "threatening letter" case involving one Homer Allen Gillette alias Homer Allen. This case, according to Mr. Reddan, occurred at Le Roy, Kansas about one year ago.

I told him I would check the file and call him.

Respectfully,

L. R. Pennington
L. R. Pennington

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

9-4151-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 APR 9 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TTO V
MEX

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

LRP:DF
9:30 A. M.

April 5, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Homer Alan Gillette
Cecil B. DeMille, Victim
Extortion

I called Mr. John Reddan of the Criminal Division and informed him only one report had been received on the above case - that from the Kansas City Office indicating Subject Gillette, age 20, was mentally unbalanced and has been bedridden for four years. He inquired whether the Department had been furnished a copy of the report, and when advised in the negative he requested a copy of the report of Special Agent E. M. Krieger, Kansas City, Missouri, dated October 11, 1938, be forwarded to him.

Respectfully,

LRP
L. R. Pennington

RECORDED

9-4661-6	
5 APR 9 1940	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	TWO

LSH:DF
7-1061 - 6

April 5, 1940

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL G. JOHN ROGGE

Attention: Mr. John Raddian
Re: Homer Alan Gillette
Cecil B. DeMille, Victim
Extortion

In compliance with your telephonic request of Mr. Pennington of this Bureau on April 5, 1940, there is attached hereto a copy of the report of Special Agent E. M. Krieger, Kansas City, Missouri, dated October 21, 1938.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
Inclosure

★ APR 5 1940

RECORDED - APR 10 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

copy of

Apr 1st 1940

Dept. of Justice
Washington D. C.

I would like very much for you to send to me a copy of what was called a threatening letter written by Homer Allen Gillette, Le Roy, Kans.

Likely signed just Homer Allen.

It was written more than a year ago to a movie director. This boy had been in bed for four years with a heart ailment and when he finally got up and around we discovered that his mind was in bad condition.

He has been in hospital a year this month.

Is better physically but Drs. say little change mentally. He was a boy that had never given any trouble in any way and I feel I must know the contents of that letter.

Sincerely, His Mother

Mabel Gillette, Le Roy, Kans.

RECORDED

7-4361-7	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
5 APR 23 1940	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

RECEIVED DEPT. OF JUSTICE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DETAILS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OJR:JTMH:KLT

24-0

April 8, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER,
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

re: Homer Allen Gillette,
alias Homer Allen, Le Roy,
Kansas, - Alleged violation
Section 58(a), Title 18,
United States Code

There is attached hereto a letter dated April 1, 1940
from one Mrs. Mabel Gillette, Le Roy, Kansas, mother of the
above subject, requesting that she be furnished a copy of
the threatening letter allegedly written by the subject to a
movie director.

It is understood that due to the mental condition of
the subject, this case has never been submitted to the United
States Attorney or to this Division for prosecution. There-
fore, it appears that an appropriate acknowledgment of the
above letter should be made by the Bureau.

Respectfully,

O. John Ragsdale

Assistant Attorney General

Enq. 34877

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

9-4661-7

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. McGuire	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Pennington	.....
Mr. Starnes	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

RECORDED

WCH:TD
9-4061

7 April 18, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE

Re: Hoover Alan Gillette;
Cecil B. DeMille, Victim;
EXTORTION

Reference is made to your memorandum dated April 8, 1940, inclosing an original letter dated April 1, 1940, received from Mrs. Hazel Gillette, Le Roy, Kansas, in which she requests that she be furnished with a copy of a letter written by her son, the subject in the above entitled case.

A copy of the investigative report of Special Agent E. H. Brieger, dated October 21, 1938, at Kansas City, Missouri, relative to this case has already been referred to you. I am inclosing herewith a photostatic copy of the original extortion letter.

I am also returning the original letter received by the Department from Mrs. Gillette.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

APR 18 1940

Handwritten signature and initials

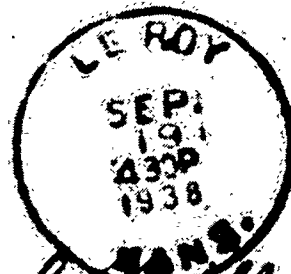
Dear Mr. De Mille,

I am writing to
you for \$1,000. for
my services in "Chained"
on Lux Radio Theater
on the night of June 3.

Please send it and
pay on it - either air
mail or wire. or else.

Yours Alan Lillie

9-4061-8



Cecil B. De Mille,
46 Paramount Studios,
Hollywood, California.

9-4061-8